

Message Text

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45

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SS-20 H-03 NSC-10 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /158 W

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R 191717Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6998

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA PINS

SUBJECT: UNGA - LEGAL COMMITTEE: PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS

REF: (A) USUN 3675 (B) MADRID 5338

1. IN RESPONSE REF A, EMBASSY REITERATED TO MFA OCTOBER 9 URGENCY OF EARLY COMPLETION OF CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS FIRST RAISED WITH MFA SEPTEMBER 17, NOTING MFA AGREEMENT ON PRIORITY NEED FOR CONVENTION AND DISCUSSED SPANISH UN DELEGATIONS'S ACTIONS ON THIS MATTER (REF B). ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF UN AFFAIRS, MFA HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT N.Y. MEETINGS INVOLVING VAN BRUSSELEN GROUP. HE CONFIRMED THAT SPAIN ONLY COOPERATED WITH THIS GROUP ON QUESTIONS OF CANDIDACY, BUT NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

2. MFA OFFICIAL CALLED EMBOFF OCTOBER 18 TO SAY THAT MFA STILL STOOD BY ITS PRINCIPLE OF AVOIDING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN VAN BRUSSELEN GROUP, BUT THAT SPAIN HAD NO INTENTION OF "OBSTRUCTING" EARLY CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT. ITS REP ON UN LEGAL COMMITTEE HAD MERELY CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESENT SPANISH VIEWS AS SET FORTH IN UN DOCUMENT A/9127 ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED APRIL 17, 1973. HOWEVER, MFA OFFICIAL STATED, SPANISH POSITION WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"FLEXIBLE".

3. COMMENT: APPEARS THAT SPANISH UN DEL HAS BEEN PURSUING FREE-WHEELING TACTICS IN CARRYING OUT MFA INSTRUCTIONS BUT GOS EVIDENTLY DOES NOT WANT TO BE EXPOSED TO CRITICISM FOR HOLDING UP EARLY CONCLUSION ON CONVENTION. NEW THAT SPANISH REP HAS GONE THROUGH EXERCISE OF PRESENTING GOS VIEWS, IT SEEMS AS IF HE HAS RECEIVED, OR IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE, INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPROMISE ON DRAFTING AND OTHER MINOR POINTS, INASMUCH AS GOS HAS NO MAJOR PROBLEM WITH SUBSTANCE OF CONVENTION. EMBASSY WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN WHETHER USUN DETECTS ANY CHANGE IN SPANISH UN DELEGATION TACTICS ON THIS ISSUE.
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